

From: Centerscale Automation Hawaii Inc. [cscale@lava.net]

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Subject: Public Works and Sustainability Committee Testimony

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To the Members of the Public Works and Sustainability Committee,

Centerscale Automation Hawaii Inc. is an active member of the **Hawaii Food Industry Association (HFIA)**. **We also oppose Bill 10 as written.**

We support a fee on all single use bags, as a means of encouraging consumers to reduce the use of BOTH paper and plastic single use bags.

A slight fee addresses the fact that paper bags are not more environmentally friendly than plastic bags. The Hawaii Food Industry Association member stores are on track to spend **\$30K more per store annually** on bag costs in counties where plastic is banned.

Without a fee on paper as well, a plastic bag ban will simply **result in a shift to paper bags.** **Paper bags can cost as much as 10 times more than plastic bags.** Most stores use bags as branding tools and will incur additional costs each time a different bag has to be manufactured for different counties due to inconsistent rules and regulations. **The increased cost of providing paper bags is absorbed by the cost of other items, resulting in higher prices for the consumer.**

There is also little upside for the environment as **paper bags take more energy to produce and recycle and generate far more pollution than plastic bags.**

If the goal here is to encourage reusable bag use, we feel a slight fee is the best means of accomplish this goal. A plastic bag ban does not accomplish this goal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Miyuki Hirano-Hollingworth

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Operations Manager

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